THE WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Since its inception the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Some of the activities are listed below; additional activities are listed under each major.

SERVICE LEARNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Students pursuing health-related studies, including the Health Promotion and Health Equity major (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/kinesiology/health-promo-health-equity-bs/), have an opportunity to become involved in the Fit Families (https://education.wisc.edu/news/capital-times-spotlights-uw-madisons-luis-columna-and-fit-families-program/) program, developed by Dr. Luis Columna. Fit Families is a physical activity program that brings together children with disabilities, their parents, college students, and in-service professionals in related fields such as adapted physical education, special education, orientation & mobility, psychology, physical education, and exercise science.

- Students in the Physical Education Teacher Education (PETE) (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/kinesiology/physical-education-bs/) program partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County to help kids and their families stay active during the holiday break from school. Working together, they developed games that can be done at home using common household items. A flyer describing the games was included in over 500 Thanksgiving baskets distributed by the Boys and Girls Club last year, and associated videos were made available on their website. Who wouldn’t want to play “Reverse Pig Trash Ball?”

STUDY ABROAD

The School of Education recently developed a number of summer study abroad opportunities. These two- to three-week courses make it possible for students to have a study abroad experience and still have time to work or pursue other activities during the summer. Led by UW–Madison instructors, students studied:

- Education, Diversity, and Community in the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)
- Dancing Cultures in Greece
- Disability Rights and Access in Australia
• Youth, Language, and Experiential Education in the Dominican Republic
• Team Building in Costa Rica
• Theatre in London
• Inclusive Physical Activity and Sports in Ireland
• Exploring Cuba Through Art
• Movement as Medicine in Portugal

Additional courses are in development!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

• Aspiring Educators of Wisconsin (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/aspiringeducators/) is a pre-professional association for those pursuing careers as educators. It provides opportunities to meet other education majors and current teachers, explore cutting-edge issues in education, and interact with the community.
• Fresh Hot Press (printmaking), AIGA (graphic design), Mad Gaffers (glassblowing), and Art for Change (activism) are just a few of the available options for art students.
• The Health Promotion/Health Equity Learning Community (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/hphec/) (HPHE LC) was recently launched with the goal of providing hard-working and dedicated students with support, resources, and opportunities within the Health Promotion and Health Equity field. Provided services include a cohort program, internship pools, tutoring services, and networking events.

RESEARCH AND DEPTH OF STUDY

• Kinesiology students are currently serving as Research Assistants in the labs of many professors, and also in the Promotion of Health Equity & Adapted Physical Activity (PHEAPA) lab.
• The Center for Research on Early Childhood Education (https://crece.wceruw.org/) created an undergraduate research fellowship program. The program’s goal is to diversify the research communities that address early childhood education.
• More than a dozen rehabilitation psychology students are currently working with professors and graduate students on research in rehabilitation psychology. Several are leading their own research with faculty support, and many students have presented at the spring Undergraduate Research Symposium.
• Physical education staff and students partnered with experts in the academic technology department to create a smartphone app, “EnCourage.” The app provides hundreds of team-building activities for use by teachers, coaches, and anyone trying to develop teamwork with groups. Its development was one of the School of Education Innovation Projects, “Social and Emotional Learning in Physical Education.”
• The dance department provides financial awards (https://dance.wisc.edu/admissions-and-aid/scholarships-and-awards/) to encourage students to continue their studies, both nationally and internationally, over the summer. For example, full-tuition scholarships are given to dance majors to study in the summer study program at the Dance Education Lab in New York. One award of full tuition and accommodation is given to a freshman dance major to study at the six-week Perry Mansfield pre-professional summer study program. Students have these, and other opportunities, to make professional connections in the field and in the global dance community.
• The theatre and drama department offers an Honors option (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/theatre-drama/theatre-drama-bs/#requirements text) in the major and a named option in Acting (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/theatre-drama/theatre-drama-bs/theatre-drama-acting-bs/).
• Undergraduate awards (https://eps.education.wisc.edu/admissions-and-aid/financial-aid/) in writing, research, and community-based scholarship are sponsored by the educational policy studies department. One such award is the Eric Flanagan Community-Engaged Scholarship Award.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• One of the UW’s most sought-after volunteer experiences, the kinesiology department’s Adapted Fitness (https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/adapted-fitness-personal-training/) program offers fitness training and physical activities to community-based clients with a wide variety of permanent and temporary disabilities from heritable disorders, chronic and neurological diseases, and accidental traumas. Students who pursue the Physical Activity for Diverse Abilities Certificate (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/kinesiology/promoting-activity-diverse-abilities-certificate/) receive priority placement for volunteer positions.

INTERNSHIPS AND FIELD PLACEMENTS

• Students earning an undergraduate degree in Rehabilitation Psychology (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/rehabilitation-psychology-special-education/rehabilitation-psychology-bse/) complete at least six credits of internship, selected from a large and diverse number of sites in the community. The goals of the experience include exploring career interests and gaining experience in community agencies serving and advocating for individuals with disabilities.
• Undergraduates in teacher education programs have multiple field experiences in K-12 schools, culminating in a full-time student teaching experience following the semester of the cooperating school.
• Art internships provide real-world experience and can often be completed for university credit through enrollment in ART 393 Internships in Art. Students have interned and conducted research at many businesses, institutions, and on-campus locations, including the Madison Children’s Museum, Bayview Center for Arts and Education, ArtWrite Collective, Chazen Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Monroe Street Arts Center, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art.